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**BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

for the year

**1952**



1952  
**BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM**

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*Mayor :*

COUNCILLOR H. E. CORNWALL, J.P.

*Deputy Mayor :*

ALDERMAN S. G. WILLIAMS, B.A.

**Public Health Committee**

*(Full Council)*

*Chairman :* Alderman A. E. Busby, J.P.

Alderman The Rt. Hon. Lord Addington, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.

Alderman P. J. Small.

Councillor W. Krohn.

Councillor J. S. Butler.

„ R. J. W. Bodenham,

„ The Rev. J. G. Campbell.

J.P., M.A.

„ Mrs. D. T. Downer.

„ F. E. Y. Fleet.

„ G. F. A. Downer.

„ T. Lambourne

„ J. Edmonds.

„ Lt. Col. L. H.

„ T. E. E. Holton.

Worlledge.

**Public Health Staff :**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. H. WALDRON,

O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. W.H., Col. I.M.S. (Rtd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C. and Wing R.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District, and Area Medical Officer for North Bucks).

*Sanitary Inspector :*

R. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A.

*Secretary :*

MISS A. CRANWELL.

## BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

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TOWN HALL,  
BUCKINGHAM.

*July 1953.*

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Buckingham.*

MY LORD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1952.

The Birth Rate shows a slight drop compared with the previous year.

The Death Rate shows a rise over last year, and is greater than that for the rest of the County and England and Wales.

Of the 56 deaths during the year, 46 were aged 65 or over, and Cancer and Heart Diseases claimed a total of 41.

The Infant Mortality Rate shows a most gratifying drop from a rate of 50.8 per thousand live births in 1951, to 18.2 in 1952.

In the realm of infectious diseases, we were singularly free from the notifiable diseases during the year. There was, however, quite a large number of cases of Mumps and German Measles in the Borough.

I should like again to thank your Officers and their Staffs for their helpful co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. H. WALDRON.

## A. Vital Statistics.

					1951	1952
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	5367	5367
Population	...	...	...	...	4005	3991
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	1455	1506
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£22,751	£23,567
Rate per £1	...	...	...	...	24/9	25/3
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£96	£96

### BIRTHS :

			M.	F.		
Legitimate	...	...	23	29	55	52
Illegitimate	...	...	1	2	4	3
Birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	14.7	13.8
„	„	„ (Bucks)	...	...	15.1	15.2
„	„	(England & Wales)	...	...	15.5	15.3
Still Births	...	...	1	1		2

			M.	F.		
DEATHS	...	...	31	25	49	56
Death-rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	12.2	14.0
„	„	„ (Bucks)	...	...	10.8	9.9
„	„	(England & Wales)	...	...	12.5	11.3
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
„	„	(England & Wales)	...	...	0.79	0.72

### INFANTILE MORTALITY :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000

live births	...	...	...	50.8	18.2
„ (Bucks)	...	...	...	24.6	25.0
„ (England & Wales)	...	...	...	29.6	27.6
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
„ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil	Nil

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :					1951			1952		
					M.	F.	L.	M.	F.	L.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...				0	0	0	1	0	1
Other Tuberculosis	...				0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cancer	...	...	...	...	4	4	8	5	6	11
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...			4	5	9	6	9	15
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	9	4	13	9	3	12
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	2	1	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	3	1	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0	1	1	0	1	1
Digestive Diseases	...	...			0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	...	...			0	2	2	0	0	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	0	1	1	0	0	0
Violence	...	...	...	...	0	1	1	3	1	4
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	4	6	10	2	3	5
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	23	26	49	31	25	56

## B. General Provision of Health Services.

### 1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the laboratory at Oxford. The arrangement was satisfactory. Water for chemical analysis has still to be sent to London.

### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

These are administered direct from the County Health Department, Aylesbury. One Ambulance and one sitting case car are stationed in Buckingham, and are supplemented if necessary with ambulances from Bletchley.

### 3. NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nurses as always carried out their excellent work.

### 4. CLINICAL AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare Centre*.—A Centre at the Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities of the centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out

therein and attendance has been satisfactory. Total attendance of children throughout the year was 602. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to those ladies who give so much of their spare time in helping with this work. Diphtheria immunisations were also carried out in this Clinic.

(b) *Orthopaedic Clinic*.—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield-Morris Hospital.

(c) *Chest Clinic*.—This self-contained unit, complete with X-ray, continues to do very good work. It is held once a week at 19, Stratford Road, and is attended by the Chest Physician.

## 5. HOSPITALS.

The following hospitals have received cases from this area :—

1. Buckingham Hospital.
2. Aylesbury Isolation Hospital (Infectious cases).
3. Slade Hospital, Oxford.
4. Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
5. Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford.

## 6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service Act, is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service. I am pleased to report that a start has at last been made to provide this very useful service in the Borough. During the year 26 cases were assisted.

## C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### 1. WATER.

The public water supply was maintained throughout the year satisfactorily as regards quantity, and the high bacteriological quality was maintained.

Waste water detection was still carried out during the year, and the daily consumption averaged 40 gallons per head of the population. The amount of water consumed during the year was 58,476,300 gallons and the amount pumped from the deep well was 45,520,350 gallons.

Sixteen bacteriological examinations were made on the raw water, and on the piped supply after treatment, all of which were satisfactory.

One chemical analysis was made which proved satisfactory.

# CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER.

	<i>Parts per</i> 100,000	<i>Grains per</i> Gallon
Total solids (dried at 180° C.) ...	71.0	49.7
Combined chlorine (Cl) ...	1.2	0.8
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride (Na Cl) ...	2.0	1.4
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates) ...	0.04	0.03
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites) ...	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen ...	0.0004	0.0003
Albuminoid nitrogen ...	0.0004	0.0003
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C	0.003	0.002
Lead or Copper ...	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness equivalent to Ca CO <sub>3</sub> ) ...	30.0	21.0
Permanent hardness (equivalent to Ca CO <sub>3</sub> ) ...	23.0	16.1
Total hardness (equivalent to Ca CO <sub>3</sub> ) ...	53.0	37.1

## 2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The two sewage works, one serving the Gawcott area and one the Buckingham area, have continued to work fairly satisfactory throughout the year.

The old works in Buckingham has maintained a fairly high standard of effluent.

The proposed new sewage works are with this Council's consulting engineers, who are doing the necessary preparatory work.

## 3. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected approximately once a fortnight in the rural part of the area, and weekly in the built-up area.

Complaints regarding refuse collection are few and infrequent.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, one tip being situated in the Bourton Road area and the other in the Gawcott area.

## 4. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is still no swimming bath in the area, although the river is used occasionally for bathing.



## 5. FACTORIES.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported, and Factories Act Form 572 has been completed.

## 6. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Public Mortuary, situated in this Council's yard, continued to serve the needs of the Borough and the Rural District.

## D. Housing.

During the year 52 families were re-housed and 44 new Council houses were completed and occupied during the year.

## E. Annual Report of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

I have pleasure in presenting a brief report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during 1952.

### Nuisances, Contraventions of Bye-Laws, etc.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	518
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint	...	...	...	21
Nuisances, etc., abated	...	...	...	455
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts				2
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts				46
Prosecutions	...	...	...	Nil

### Houses and Premises Inspected.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts were as follows :—

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	11
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	9
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	101
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	28
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order	...	...	...	...	2
Infected house visits (excluding Tuberculosis cases)	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	64
					222

In addition to the above, visits were carried out under the Housing Act, Factories Act, Shops Act, Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and Petroleum Act, and Disinfestation of Vermin-infested properties.

### **Housing Act, 1936.**

It is still not practicable to carry out the routine inspections under the above Act, but 35 inspections have been carried out.

### **Factories Act, 1937.**

Mechanical Factories on the Register	...	...	...	24
Non-mechanical Factories	...	...	...	2
Visits paid to Factories	...	...	...	21

### **Milk and Dairies Regulation, 1949.**

Retail premises and distributors continue to be under the control of this Council and are required to be registered and subject to periodic inspection.

Two large receiving depots in the district were visited from time to time during the year, and conditions found to be satisfactory.

### **Slaughterhouses and Food Supply.**

The Central Slaughterhouse in Buckingham caters for the Borough and the greater part of the surrounding district. Strict meat inspection routine, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Memo, 62, Foods, was carried out.

150 visits were made, and all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption were examined. Numerous visits were made to other food premises for the inspection of unsound foodstuffs.

Approximately 465 Beasts, 1,478 Sheep, 415 Calves and 190 Pigs were slaughtered during the year; the greatest cause for condemnation was Tuberculosis.

### **Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.**

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit	...	27
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	...	19

### **Rats and Mice (Destruction) Order, 1919.**

#### **Rodent Infestation Order, 1943.**

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out :—

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	25
Number of premises treated for rats	...	...	...	27
Number of premises treated for mice	...	...	...	4
Estimated number of rats destroyed	...	...	...	289
Actual rats' bodies found	...	...	...	106
Visits for Inspection and Survey	...	...	...	63
Visits for baiting and extermination	...	...	...	124

RENNIE TAYLOR,  
*Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.*

## F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

### 1. GENERAL

The incidence of the common infectious diseases was very low.

### 2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	1951	1952
Measles	31	2
Puerperal Pyrexia		1

### 3. CANCER.

There were 11 deaths from this disease during the year.

### 4. TUBERCULOSIS

Seven new cases were notified and there was one death.

D. H. WALDRON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

